

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 RANGOO 02659 301022Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 CU-04 PA-01 PRS-01 /025 W  
-----110912 301313Z /40

R 300247Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4102

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE RANGOON 2659

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, BM  
SUBJ: U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN BURMA

REF: STATE 172357

1. USIS OPERATIONS HERE CONTRIBUTE TO ADVANCEMENT OF OTHER INTERESTS AS WELL AS CULTURAL AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS. MODEST BUT ACTIVE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, EXHIBITS AND DISTRIBUTION OF USIS PUBLICATIONS IN BURMESE ESTABLISHES ATMOSPHERE CONDUCTIVE FOR MISSION WORKING FOR ATTAINMENT OF NARCOTICS, ECONOMIC AND OTHER OBJECTIVES.

2. USIA EAST ASIA AREA DIRECTOR MORT SMITH TRANSMITTED COUNTRY PLAN REVIEW SUGGESTING REVISIONS TO MAKE BASIC USIS PROGRAM PLAN-  
NING DOCUMENT ACCORD MORE CLOSELY TO AGENCY WORLD-WIDE OBJECTIVES.  
NEWLY ARRIVED PAO FRANK SCOTTON STUDYING PARM AND WORKING WITH  
DEMBASSY OFFICERS TO SUBMIT REVISIONS TO AGENCY COUNTRY PLAN FOR  
IMPROVEMENT ALREADY EFFECTIVE OPERATING RELATIONSHIP. MISSION RE-  
QUESTING APPROPRIATE CLEARANCE TO PERMIT PAO SCOTTON PARTICIPATE  
IN MISSION COMMITTEE EFFORT ORGANIZED FOR ANTI-NARCOTICS OBJECTIVE  
WHICH IS OUR PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE.

3. OUR EXPERIENCE HERE IS THAT USIS PROGRAMS FACILITATE ALL  
MISSION GOALS BY DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS WITH HOST COUNTRY  
INSTITUTIONS AND OFFICIALS WHICH EASE A BROAD SPECTRUM OF EMBASSY  
CONTACTS IN PURSUIT OF ADDITIONAL NON-USIA GOALS. THE PRESENCE  
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OF U.S. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN BURMA NOT ONLY CONTRIBUTES TO  
UNDERSTANDING, THOUGH SHORT OF COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH, U.S.  
POLICIES, BUT ALSO MAKES OTHER ELEMENTS OF U.S. WORKING PRE-  
SENCE MORE PALATABLE IN THIS SENSITIVE HOST NATION.

4. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY IN BURMA OPERATES UNDER TIGHT CON-  
STRAINTS IMPOSED BY THE GUB. CONSEQUENTLY, THE PUBLIC

AFFAIRS EFFORT CANNOT UNDERTAKE MANY OF THE PROJECTS CONSIDERED ROUTINE IN A MORE NORMAL ENVIRONMENT. NEVERTHELESS THE PATIENT AND TACTFUL EFFORTS OF USIS IN THE PAST AND AT PRESENT HAVE HELPED TO ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENT FOR EXAMPLE WITH EXCHANGES, WHICH HAS EASED THE EXPOSURE TO U.S. IDEAS AND TRAVEL TO THE U.S. OF SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE REAL POWER STRUCTURE AND IN FIELDS DIRECTLY RELATED TO OUR PRIMARY MISSION GOAL. ADDITIONALLY, PUBLIC DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE, A MAJOR INSTRUMENT IN OPENING UP AN ISOLATED SOCIETY TO THE REST OF THE WORLD AND TO THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT CONCEPT OF INTERDEPENDENCE. EVEN THE WORD "INTERDEPENDENCE" HAS APPEARED IN RECENT AUTHORITY SPEECHES - NO MEAN FEAT IN A SOCIETY WHICH IN 1962 DELIBERATELY CHOSE AUTARCHY AS A NATIONAL GOAL.

BARTLEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, COUNTRY INFORMATION PROGRAMS, CULTURAL EXCHANGES  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, OEXC, BM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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